

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multicolor image forming material comprising:
an image receiving sheet comprising a substrate and an
image receiving layer; and

5 at least four heat transfer sheets each comprising a
substrate and an image forming layer, each of the heat transfer
sheets being adapted to be superposed on the image receiving
sheet with the image forming layer facing the image receiving
layer and irradiated with laser light to transfer the
10 irradiated area of the image forming layer to the image
receiving layer to form an image on the image receiving sheet,
wherein

the at least four heat transfer sheets comprise a heat
transfer sheet (X) of which the image forming layer has a hue
15 selected from the group consisting of (1) a hue having an L*
value of 48 to 58, an a* value of 69 to 79, and a b* value
36 to 46, (2) a hue having an L* value of 16 to 26, an a* value
of 19 to 29, and a b* value of -63 to -73, (3) a hue having
an L* value of 57 to 67, an a* value of -73 to -83, and a b*
20 value of 26 to 36, (4) a hue having an L* value of 65 to 75,
an a* value of 50 to 60, and a b* value of 81 to 91, (5) a
hue having an L* value of 70.3 to 80.3, an a* value of 73.4
to 83.4, and a b* value of -12.4 to -2.4, (6) a hue having
an L* value of 35.4 to 45.4, an a* value of 16.4 to 26.4, and
25 a b* value of 36.5 to 46.5, (7) a hue having an L* value of

38.2 to 48.2, an a* value of 67.0 to 77.0, and a b* value of -36.5 to -46.5, (8) a hue having an L* value of 90.2 to 100.2, an a* value of -3.6 to 6.4, and a b* value of -9.4 to 0.6, and (9) a hue having an L* value of 60.8 to 70.8, an a* value of -5.3 to 4.7, and a b* value of -2.9 to 7.1, each in the CIE Lab color space, and

an absolute difference ΔD between an optical density of the image forming layer of each of the at least four heat transfer sheets and a corresponding target optical density is equal to or smaller than 0.2.

2. The multicolor image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the heat transfer sheets each comprise a light-heat conversion layer.

3. The multicolor image forming material according to claim 1, wherein a color difference ΔE between the hue of the image forming layer of each heat transfer sheet represented by (L*, a*, b*) and the corresponding target hue represented by (L₀*, a₀*, b₀*) is equal to or smaller than 8, the color different ΔE being represented by

$$[(L^* - L_0^*)^2 + (a^* - a_0^*)^2 + (b^* - b_0^*)^2]^{1/2}.$$

4. The multicolor image forming material according to claim 2, wherein the heat transfer sheets each comprise an

intermediate layer so that the light-heat conversion layer,
the intermediate layer and the image forming layer is in this
order.

5 5. The multicolor image forming material according to
claim 1, wherein the heat transfer sheets each comprise a
cushioning layer.

10 6. The multicolor image forming material according to
claim 1, wherein the image forming layer of each heat transfer
sheet comprises 25% by weight or more of a pigment.

15 7. The multicolor image forming material according to
claim 1, wherein the image forming layer of each heat transfer
sheet comprises 35% by weight or more of a pigment.

20 8. The multicolor image forming material according to
claim 1, wherein at least one layer of the heat transfer sheets
comprises a matting agent.

25 9. The multicolor image forming material according to
claim 2, wherein the light-heat conversion layer of each heat
transfer sheet comprises a binder having a thermal
decomposition temperature of 450°C or higher.

10. The multicolor image forming material according to claim 2, wherein the light-heat conversion layer of each heat transfer sheet comprises at least one binder selected from the group consisting of a polyimide resin, a polyamide-imide resin, and a polyvinyl alcohol resin.

11. The multicolor image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the image forming layer of each heat transfer sheet and the image receiving layer of the image receiving sheet each have a water contact angle of 7.0 to 120.0°.

12. The multicolor image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the multicolor image recording area has a size of 515 mm by 728 mm or larger.

13. The multicolor image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the multicolor image recording area has a size of 594 mm by 841 mm or larger.

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14. A method for forming a multicolor image comprising using a multicolor image forming material comprising an image receiving sheet comprising a substrate and an image receiving layer and at least four heat transfer sheets each comprising a substrate, a light-heat conversion layer and an image forming

layer, the heat transfer sheets being different in color of the respective image forming layers, superposing each of the heat transfer sheets on the image receiving sheet with the image forming layer thereof facing the image receiving layer
5 of the image receiving sheet, imagewise irradiating the superposed heat transfer sheet with laser light to transfer the irradiated area of the image forming layer to the image receiving layer of the image receiving sheet to record an image, wherein the multicolor image forming material is a multicolor
10 image forming material according to claim 1, and the irradiated area of the image forming layer is transferred to the image receiving sheet in a form of a thin film.